

# Famous History

OF

## F·R·Y·E·R·B·A·C·O·N.

Containing the wonderful things that  
he did in his Life; Also the manner  
of his Death, with the Lives and Deaths  
of the two Conjurers, *Bungey*  
and *Vandermast*.

*Very pleasant and delightful to be read.*

*Blidschap doet, het leven verlangen.*



London, Printed by E. Cotes, for F. Grove dwelling  
upon Snowhill, 1661.





THE  
Famous History  
OF  
FRYER BACON.

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Of the Parents and Birth of Fryer Bacon, and how he  
addicted himself to Learning.

**H**E was born by most mens opinions in  
the west part of England, and was son  
to a wealthy Farmer, who put him to  
Schoole to the Parson of the Towne  
where he was borne; not with intent  
that he should turne Fryer (as he did) but  
to get so much understanding, that he might manage the  
better that wealth he was to leave him. But young  
Bacon

Bacon took his learning so fast, that the Priest could not teach him any more, which made him desire his Master that he would speak to his Father to put him to Oxford, that he might not lose that little learning that he had gained, his Master was very willing so to doe, and one day meeting his Father, told him that he had received a great blessing of God, in that he had given him so wise and hopefull a Childe, as his sonne Roger Bacon was (for so was he named) and wished him with all to doe his duty, and so to bring up his Childe, that he might shew his thankfulness to God, which could not better be done then in making him a Scholar, for hee found by his sudden taking of his learning, that he was a Childe likely to prove a very great Clerk: hereat old Bacon was not well pleased (for he desired to bring him up to Plough and to the Cart, as he himself was brought) yet for reverence sake to the Priest, shewed not his anger, but kindly thanked him for his pains, and counsell, yet desiring him not to speake any more concerning that matter: for he knew best what pleased himself, and that he would not do; so brake they off their talk and parted.

So soon as the old man came home, he called to his Son for his Booke, which when he had, he looked them up, and gave the Boy a Cart-whip in the place of them, saying to him: Boy, I will have you no Priest, you shall not be better learned than I: you can tell how by the Almanack when it is best sowing wheat, when barley, pease and beans: and when the best Libbing is, when to sell Grain and Cattle I will teach thee; for I have all Faits and Merchants as perfect in my memory, as Sir John our best Lawyer without book: Make me this whip, I will teach thee the use of it, it will be more profitable to thee than this harsh Latine; Make no reply, but follow my counsell, or else by the whip thou shalt feel the smart hand of my anger. Young Bacon thought this but hard dealing, yet would he not reply, but within six or eight dayes he gave his Father the



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the ship, and went to a Cloyster some twenty miles off, where he was entertained, and so continued his learning, and in small time came to be so famous, that he was sent for to the University of Oxford, where he long time studied, and grew so excellent in the secrets of Art and Nature, that not England onely, but all Christendome admired him.

How the King sent for Fryer Bacon, and of the wonderful things he shewed the King and Queen.

**T**he King being in Oxfordshire at a Noblemans house was very desirous to see this famous Fryer, for he had heard many times of his wondrous things that he had done by his Art: therefore he sent one for him to desire him to come to the Court. Fryer Bacon kindly thanked the King by the Messenger, and said that he was at the Kings service, and would suddenly attend him: but Sir, saith he (to the Gentleman) I pray make you hast, or else I shall be two houts before you at the Court. For all your learning (answered the Gentleman) I can hardly beleefe this, for Scholars, Old men, and Travellers, may lie by authority. To strengthen your beleef (said Fryer Bacon) I could presently shew you the last valence that you lay withall, but I will not at this time. One is as true as the other (said the Gentleman) and I would laugh to see either. You shall see them both within these four houts, quoth the Fryer) and therefore make what haste you can. I will prevent that by my speed (said the Gentleman) and with that rid his way, but he rode out of his way, as it should seem, for he had but five miles to ride, and yet he was better then three houts a riding them, so that Fryer Bacon by his Art was with the King before he came.

The King kindly welcomed him, and said that he  
long



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long that had desired to see him: for he had as yet not  
heard of his life. Sirre Bacon answered him, that fame  
had desired him, and given him that report that his poore  
studies had never deserved, for he beleebed that Art had  
many honours more excellent then himselfe was. The  
king commended him for his modesty, and told him, that  
nothing did become a wise man lesse then boasting: But  
yet will he requested him now to be no niggard of his  
knowledge, but to shew his Queene and him some of his  
skill. I were worthy of neither Art nor knowledge (quoth  
Sirre Bacon) should I deny you so gently this small re-  
quest: I pray seek you selves and you shall see presently  
what my poore skill can performe: the King, Queene, and  
nobles sat there all doone. Every having to done, the  
Sirre waved his wand, and presently was heard such  
excellent musique that they were all amazed, for they all  
said they had never heard the like. This is said the Sirre-  
er, to delight the sense of hearing. I will tell you all your  
other senses ere you depart hence: so waving his wand  
again, there was louder musique heard, and presently  
the dancers entred, the first like a Count-Handmaide, the  
second like a footman, the third like a wifur, the fourth  
like a yeoman, the fifth like a fool: these and others ex-  
cellent changes, so that they gave content to all the behol-  
ders, and having done their dance, they all vanished  
away in that order as they came in. Thus feared he them  
of their senses. When waves he his wand again, and  
there was another kind of musique heard, and when  
it was playing the same mannerly before them a table  
richly covered with all sorts of viands: then desired he  
the king and Queene to sit at some certain rich table  
that were on the table, which they and the nobles were  
presently did, and when they had done, the Sirre  
then desired them to sit downe at the table: then  
waves he his wand again, and there was  
such a smell: as if all the rich perfumes in the whole world  
had been there prepared in the best manner that Art



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could set them out: whilst he feasted thus their smelling, he waved his wand againe, and there came diuers Nations in sundry habits (as Russians, and Polanders, Indians, Armenians) all bringing sundry kinds of Fures, such as their Countries yeelded: all which they presented to the King and Queen: these Fures were so soft in the touch that they highly pleased all those that handled them; then after some odde fantastick Dances (after their Countrey manner) they vanished away: then asked Fryer Bacon the Kings Majesty, if that hee desired any more of his skill? The King answered that he was fully satisfied for that time, and that he onely now thought of something that hee might bestow on him, that might partly satisfie the kindnesse that he had receiued. Fryer Bacon said, that he desired nothing so much as his Majesties love, and if that hee might be assured of that, hee would think himselfe happy in it: for that (said the King) be thou euer sure of, in token of which receiue this Jewell, and withall giue him a costly Jewell from his neck. The Fryer did with great reverence thank his Majesty, and said: as your Majesties vassall you shall euer finde me ready to doe you service, your time of need shall find it both beneficiall and delightfull. But amongst all these Gentlemen I see not the man that your Grace did send for mee by, sure hee hath lost his way, or else met with some sport that detains him so long. I promised to be here before him, and all this noble assembly can witnesse I am as good as my word: I hear him coming: with that entred the Gentleman all be ditted, (for he had rid through ditches, quagmires, plashes, and waters, that hee was in a most pitifull case) hee seeing the Fryer there looked full angerly, and bid a pee on all his Devils for they had led him out of his way, and almost drownded him. See not angry Sir, (said Fryer Bacon) here is an old friend of yours that hath more cause: for he hath tarried these three hours for you (with that hee pulled up ther Hangings, and behind them stood a

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kitchen.



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kitchen-maid with a basting ladle in her hand :) now am I as good as my word with you, for I promised you to helpe you to your sweet-heart, how doe you like this; Saill, answered the Gentleman, that I will be reben-ged of you. Threaten not (said Fryer Bacon) least I doe you more shame, and doe you take heed how you giue Scholars the lye again: but because I know not how well you are stored with money at this time, I will bear your wenchs charges home; with that shee banished away: The King, Queen, and all the company laughed to see with what shame this Gentleman indured the sight of his greasse sweet-heart; but the Gentleman went away disconcerted. This done, Fryer Bacon took his leaue of the King and Queen, and receiued from them diuers gifts (as well as thanks) for his art he shewed them.

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How Fryer Bacon deceived his man, that would fast for his conscience sake.

**F**ryer Bacon had one onely man to attend on him, and hee too was none of the strictest, for he kept him in a house, more than for any service he had of him. This man of his, named Miles, neuer could endure to fast as other Religious persons did, for alwaies he had in one corner or other, flesh which he would eat when his appetite was bred onely, or else did fast and abstaine from all things. Fryer Bacon, seeing this, thought at one time or other to be shew him, which he did on Friday in this manner: Miles on the Thursday night had provided a great black-pudding for his Fridayes fast: That Pudding put he in his pocket (thinking belike to beate it so, for his appetite had no fire on those dayes :) on the next day, when hee was to be shew to Miles, he looked as though hee would not have eat any thing: when his

Master



## of Fryer Bacon,

Master offered him some bread, he refused it, saying, his sinnes deserved a greater penance then one dayes fast in a whole week: his Master commended him for it, and bid him take heed that hee did not dissemble, for if he did it would at last be known: Then were I worse then a Turke said Miles: so went hee forth, as if hee would have gone to pray privately, but it was for no other but to pray privately upon his black-pudding: that pulled he out, for it was halfe roasted with the heat of his tumme, and fell to it lustily, but he was deceived, for having put one end in his mouth he could neither get it out again, nor bite it off, so that he stamped out for help, his Master hearing him, came, and finding him in that manner, took hold of the other end of the pudding and led him to the Hall, and shewed him to all the Scholars, saying; See here my good friends and fellow students, what a debout man my servant Miles is, he loved not to break a fast-day, wittnesse this pudding that his Conscience will not let him swallow: I will have him to be an example for you all, then tyed he him to a window by the end of the pudding, where poor Miles stood like a Ware tyed by the nose to a stake, and endured many flouts and mocks: at night his Master released him from his penance; Miles was glad of it, and did how never to break more fast dayes lest that he libed.

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How Fryer Bacon saved a Gentleman that had given himselfe to the Devil.

**I**n Oxfordshier there libed a Gentleman, that had through his riotous expences wasted a faire inheritance that was left him by his father: After which he grew so poor, that he had not wherewith to buy himselfe so much bread as would maintain his miserable life: the memory of his former state that he had libed



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in, and the present want that he now sustained, made him to grow desperate and regardlesse both of his soule and bodies estate: which gave the Deuil occasion to work upon his weaknesse in this manner following.

On a time, he being all alone full of griefe and care, (grief for his follies past, and care how to get a poore living for the remainder of his dayes) the Deuill came unto him, and asked him what he wanted (he came not in a shape terrible, but like an old penny-Father. This Gentleman was amazed at the sodaine presence, but hearing him demand of his wants, he took to him courage and said: I want all things, I want money to buy mee apparell, money to buy mee meat, money to redeem my Land, and money to pay my debts: Can or will you helpe me in this misery? I will, answered the Deuill, on some conditions, help you to money for to supply all these wants, and that suddainly. On any conditions, said the Gentleman, help mee, and I sweare to performe them: I take no Oathes (answered the Deuill) I must haue Bonds; if you will doe so, meet mee by the Woods side to morrow morning, and there I will haue the money ready, I will, said the Gentleman (for hee poore man was glad of it on any conditions, as hee said before.) The next day he went to the Wood, where the Deuill had promised to meet him: long had hee not been there, but he beheld the Deuill comming, and after him two other like Serbingmen, with bagges of money: this reioyced the poore Gentlemans heart to think that he should once againe liue like a man. The Deuill comming to him said: Sonne, I will performe my promise unto you if you will seale to the conditions that I haue here already drawne: willing said the Gentleman, I will, I pray read them. The Deuill read them to this effect: that he lent him so much money as hee should haue no need of, to be employed to these uses following: First to redeem his mortgaged Land; next to pay his debts; lastly to buy him such necessaries, as he wanted;



wanted; to be lent on this condition, That so soon as hee  
had paid all his debts that he should be at the Lenders dis-  
posing, and without any delay freely to peele himselfe to  
him upon the first demand of the aforesaid Lender. To this  
the Gentleman sealed, and had the money carryed to his  
chamber, with which money he in short time redeemed his  
land, and bought such things as he needed, and likewise  
paid all his debts, so that there was not any man could ask  
him one penny.

Thus liued this Gentleman once again in great cre-  
dit, and grew so great a husband that he encreased, his  
estate, and was richer then euer his Father before him  
was: but long did not this ioy of his continue for one  
day hee being in his Studie the Debill appeared unto  
him and did tell him, that now his Land was redeemed,  
and his debts paid, and therefore his time was come  
that he must peele himselfe to his mercy, as hee was  
bound by Bond. This troubled the Gentleman to heare,  
but more to thinke how hee must become a slave to a  
stranger that hee did not know, (for hee knew not as  
yet that hee was the Debill) but being urged to answer for  
himselfe, by the Debill, hee said he had not as yet paid  
all his debts and therefore as yet hee was not lable to  
the Bonds strait Conditions. At this the Debill seemed  
angry, and with a fearfull noise transformed himselfe  
to an ugly shape, saying, Alas poore wretch, these are poore  
excuses that thou framest. I know them all to be false,  
and so will probe them to thy face to morrow morning,  
tell then I leave thee to despaire. So with a great noise  
hee went his way, leaving the Gentleman halfe dead with  
fear.

When hee was gone, the Gentleman rebibing, be-  
thought himselfe in what a miserable state hee was now  
in, then wished hee that hee had liued and dyed poorely,  
then cursed hee all his ambitious thoughts that led him first  
to desire again that wealth which hee had so bairly by his  
spot lost, then would he curse his prodigall expences,  
that



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that were the originall of all his misery: thus was he tormented a long time in his mind, at last he fully resolved to end his wretched life by some violent death, and to that end hee went forth, thinking to kill himselfe, which hee had done, had it not been for the Fryer: for as he was falling upon his sword, Fryer Bacon came by and called to him to hold, which he did. Fryer Bacon demanded of him the cause why hee was so desperate that he would run headlong to hell? O sir, said hee, the cause is great, and the relation is so terrible to mee, that I would intreat you not to trouble mee any more, but to leaue mee to my owne will: this answer filled the Fryer with amazement and pity both at once, which made him to urge him in this manner. Sir, should I leaue you to this wilfull damnation I were unfit euer hereafter to wear or touch any robe that belongeth to the holy Order, whereof I am a Brother: you know (doubt not) that there is giben power to the Church to absolve penitent sinner let not your wilfulness take away from you that benefit which you may receiue by it; freely confesse your selfe (I pray you) unto mee, and doubt not but I shall giue you troubled conscience ease; Father (said this gentleman) I know all that you haue spoken is truth, and I haue many times receiued comfort from the Mother Church, (I dare not say Our, for I feare me she will neuer receiue me for a Childe) I haue no part in her benediction; yet since you request so earnestly the cause, I will tell you, beare it and tremble. Know then that I haue giben my selfe to the Deuill for a little wealth, and hee to morrow in this wood must haue me; now haue you my grief, but I know not how to get comfort.

This is strange (quoth Fryer Bacon) yet be of good comfort, penitentiall teares may doe much, which see you doe not spare; soon I will visit you at your house and giue you that comfort (I hope) that will beget you againe to goodnesse: the Gentleman with these words was somewhat comforted, and returned home. At night Fryer

Bacon



## of Fryer Bacon.

Bacon came to him, and found him full of teares for his paynous offences, for these teares hee gave him hope of pardon, demanding further what conditions he had made with the Debill: the Gentleman told him, how that he had promised himselfe to him as soon as he had paid all his debts; which now he had done, for he owed not one penny to any man living. Well, said Fryer Bacon, continue thy sorrow for thy sinnes, and to morrow meet him without feare, and be thou content to stand to the next mans judgement that shall come that way, whether thou dost belong to the Debill or no: feare not, but doe so, and be thou assured that I will be he that shall come by, and will giue such judgement on thy side, that thou shalt be free from him; with that Fryer Bacon went home, and the Gentleman went to his prayers.

In the morning the Gentleman (after that he had blessed himselfe) went to the wood where he found the Debill ready for him; so soon as he came neer, the Debill said, Now Deceitler are you come, now shalt thou see that I can and will prove that thou hast paid all thy debts, and therefore thy soul belongeth to mee. Thou art a Deceitler (said the Gentleman) and gapest me money to cheat me of my soul, for else why wilt thou be thy own iudge: let me have some other to iudge between us: Content, (said the Debill, take whom thou wilt: then I will have said the Gentleman) the next man that cometh this way; hereto the Debill agreed. No sooner were these words ended, but Fryer Bacon came by, to whom the Gentleman spake, and requested, that he would be iudge to a weighty matter between them two; the Fryer said he was content, so both parties were agreed; the Debill said they were, and told Fryer Bacon how he stood between them in this manner.

Know Fryer Bacon, I feeling this world all like to starve for want of food, and thin money, not onely to buy him vittuals, but also to buy his lands and pay his debts, conditionally that to the end his debts were paid, that he



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he should give himselfe freely to mee; to this here is his Bond (showing him the Bond) now my time is expired, for all his debts are paid, which hee cannot deny. This case is plain, if it be so that his debts are paid: his silence confirms it, said the Debill, therefore give him a just sentence. I will (said Fryer Bacon.) But first tell me (speaking to the Gentleman,) didst thou never yet give the Debill any of his money back, nor requite him any waies: never had he any thing of mee as yet (answered the Gentleman) then never let him have any thing of thee and thou art free: Deceiber of mankind, said hee (speaking to the Debill) it was thy bargaine, never to meddle with him so long as hee was indebted to any; now how canst thou demand of him any thing when hee is indebted for all that he hath to thee, when he payeth thee thy money then take him as thy due; till then thou hast nothing to doe with him: and so I charge thee to bee gone. At this the Debill banished with great vexoz: but Fryer Bacon comforted the Gentleman, and sent him home with a quiet conscience, bidding him never to pay the Debills money back as he tendered his own safety: which he promised for to observe.

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How Fryer Bacon made a Brasen head to speak, by the which he would have walled England about with Brasse.

Fryer Bacon reading one day of the many conquests of England, belthought himselfe how he might keep it hereafter from the like conquests, and to make himselfe famous hereafter to all posterities. This (after great study) hee found could be no way so well done as one, which was to make a head of Brasse, and if he could make this head to speake (and heere when it speakes) then might hee be able to wall England about with Brasse. To this purpose hee got one Fryer Bungey to assist him; who was a great Scholar and a Magician, (but



## of Fryer Bacon)

(but not to compare to Fryer Bacon:) these two with great studie and paines so framed a head of Masse that in the inward parts thereof there was all things like as in a naturall mans head: this being done, they were as farre from perfection of the work as they were before, for they knew not how to give the parts that they had made, motion, without which it was impossible that it should speak: many booke they read, but yet could not finde any hope of what they sought, that at the last they concluded to raise a spirit, and to know of him that which they could not attaine to by their own studies. To doe this they prepared all things ready, and went one evening to a Wood thereby, and after many ceremonies used, they spake the words of Consecration, which the Devil straight obeyed and appeared unto them, asking what they would know, said Fryer Bacon, that we have made an artificiall head of Masse, which wee would have to speak, to the furtherance of which we have raised thee, and being raised, we will here keep thee, unless thou tell us the way and manner how to make this head to speak. The Devil told him, that he had not that power of himselfe: Beginner of lies (said Fryer Bacon) I know that thou dost assemble, and therefore tell it us quickly, or else we will here bind thee, to remain during our pleasures. At these threatnings the Devil consented to doe it, and told them, that with a continuall smoke of the five golden simples it should have motion, and in one hour should speak, the time of the moneth or day be chosen, and he told them, that if they heard it not before it had done speaking, all their labors should be lost: they being satisfied, licenseth the spirit for to depart.

Then went these two learned Fryers home again, and prepared the simples ready, and made the fume, and with continuall watching attended upon the Masse head would speake: Thus watched they for three weeks without any rest, so that they were so weary



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and sleepe, that they could not any longer retaine from rest; Then called Fryer Bacon his man Miles, and told him that it was not unknown to him what paines Fryer Bungey and himselfe had taken for three weekes space, anely to make and to heare the brassen-head speake, which if they did not, then had they lost all their labour, and all England had a great losse thereby: therefore he intreated Miles that he would watch whilst that they sleepe, and call them if the head speak. Fear not good Master (said Miles) I will not sleep, but hearken and attend upon the head, and if it chance to speake, I will call you, therefore I pray take you both your rests, and let me alone for watching this head. After Fryer Bacon had given him a greate charge: The second time Fryer Bungey and he went to sleep, and left Miles alone to watch the brassen-head; Miles, to keep him from sleeping, got a Tabor and Pipe, and being merrily disposed, sung this Song to a Postherne tune:—

**Canst thou not from New-Castle,**

**To couple it a custome,**

**all things thereto agree:**

**Why should not I then love,**

**since love to all is free,**

**But he have one that's pretty,**

**her cheekes of scarlet dye,**

**For to breed my delight,**

**when thus I linge her by.**

**Though vertue be a Dowrie,**

**yet I chuse money store:**

**If my Love prove untrue,**

**what that I can get more.**

**The faire is often unconstant,**

**the black is often proud.**



## of Fryer Bacon;

He chuse a lovely brown,  
come Fidler scrape the crowd.

Come Fidler scrape the crown,  
for Peggie the brown is she,  
Must be my Bride, God guide,  
that Peggie and Lagree,

With his owne musiche, and such songs as these spent  
he his time, and kept himselfe from sleeping, at last, af-  
ter some noise the head speake these two words, Time is,  
Miles hearing it to speak no more, thought his Master  
would be angry if he watched him for that, and therefore  
he let them both sleep, and began to mock the head in this  
manner. Thou Brasen-faced head, hath my Master took  
all this paines about thee, and now dost thou requite him  
with two words, Time is: had he watched with a Lawyer  
so long as he hath watched with thee, he would haue gi-  
uen him more and better words then thou hast yet; if thou  
canst speak no wiser, they shall sleep till doomes day for  
me: Time is, I know Time is, and that you shall hear  
goodman Brasen-face.

To the tune of, Dainty come thou to me.

Time is for some to plant,  
Time is for some to sow;  
Time is for some to graft  
The horne as some do know.

Time is for some to eat,  
Time is for some to sleep.  
Time is for some to laugh,  
Time is for some to weep.

Time is for some to sing,  
Time is for some to pray.

Time



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Time is for some to creep,  
That have drunk all the day.

Time is to cart a Bawd,  
Time is to whip a Whore,  
Time is to hang a Theef,  
And Time is for much more.

Do you tell us Copper-nose, when Time is, I hope we  
Scolars know our Times, when to drink drink, when to  
kisse our Hostis, when to goe on her scoze, and when to pay  
it, that time comes seldome. After half an hour had passed:  
the head did speake again two words, which were these:  
Time was. Miles respected these words as little as he did  
the former, and would not wake them, but still scoffed at the  
drunken head, that it had learned no better words, and had  
such a Tutor as his Master: and in scozne of it sung this  
song.

To the tune of a rich Merchant-man.

Time was when thou a Kettle  
wert fil'd with better matter,  
But Fryer Bacon did thee spoyle,  
when he thy fides did batter.

Time was when conscience dwelled  
with men of occupation:  
Time was when Lawyers did not thrive  
so well by mens vexation.

Time was when Kings and Beggars  
of one poor stuffe had being:  
Time was when Office kept no knaver,  
that time it was worth seeing.

Time was a bowle of water  
did give the face reflection:



## of Fryer Bacon.

Time was when women knew no paint  
which now they call complexion.

Time was: I know that Brasen-face, without your telling, I know that Time was, and I know what things there was when Time was, and if you speak no wiser, no matter shall be waked of me. Thus Miles talked and sung till another halfe houre was gone, then this Brasen-head spake again these words, Time is past: and therewith fell down, and presently followed a terrible noyse, with strange flashes of fire, so that Miles was half dead with fear: At this noyse the two Fryers awaked, and wondered to see the whole room so full of smook, but that being banished they might perceiue the Brasen-head broke, and lying on the ground: at this sight they grieved, and called Miles to know how this came. Miles, half dead with fear, said, that it fell down of it selfe, and that with the noyse and fire that followed he was almost frighed out of his wits: Fryer Bacon asked him if he did not hear it speak? (yes quoth Miles) it spake, but to no purpose, He haue a Parret speak better in that time that you haue been teaching this Brasen-head. Out on the Villain (said Fryer Bacon) thou hast undone us both, hadst thou but called us when it did speak, all England had been walled about with Brasen, to its glory and our eternall fames: what were the words it spake? very few (said Miles) and those were none of the wisest that I haue heard neither: first he said Time is. Hadst thou called us then (said Fryer Bacon) we had been made for ever: then (said Miles) halfe an houre after it spake again, and said Time was. And wouldst thou not call us then (said Bungey)? Alas (said Miles) I thought it would haue told me some long Tale, and then I purposed to haue celled you: Then halfe an houre after he cryed Time is past, and made such a noyse, that he hath waked you himselfe me thinks. At this Fryer Bacon was in such a rage, that he would



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have beaten his man, but he was restrained by Bungey: but never thelesse for his punishment he with his Art struck him dumb for one whole moneths space. Thus that great work of these learned Fryers was overthrowen (to their great griefes) by this simple fellow.

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How Fryer Bacon by his Art took a Towne, when the King had lyen before it three Monethes, without doing to it any hurt.

**I**n those times when Fryer Bacon did all his strange trickes, the King of England had a great part of France, which they held a long time, till civill warres at home in this Land made them to lose it: It did chauce that the King of England (for some cause best knowne to himselfe) went into France with a great Armie, where after many victories he did besiege a strong Town, and lay before it full thre moneths, without doing to the Towne any great damage, but rather received the hurt himselfe. This did so vex the King, that he sought to take it in any way either by policy or strength: To this intent he made Proclamation, that whosoever could deliver this Towne into his hand, he should have for his paynes ten thousand Crownes truely paid. This was proclaimed, but there was none found that would undertake it: at length the newes did come into England of this great reward that was promised. Fryer Bacon hearing of it went into France, and being admitted to the Kings presence, he thus spake unto him: your Majesty I am sure hath not quite forgot your poore subject Bacon, the love that you shewed to mee being last in your presence, hath drawne me for to leave my Countrey and my Studies, to doe your Majestys service: I beseech your Grace, to command me so farre as my poore Art or life may doe you pleasure: The King thanked him for his love, but told him, that

he



## of Fryer Bacon.

He had now more need of Armes than Art, and wanted  
brave Souldiers more than learned Schollers. Fryer  
Bacon answered, Your Grace saith well: But let me  
(under correction) tell you that Art oftentimes doth  
those things that are impossible to Armes, which I will  
make good in some few examples. I will speake one-  
ly of things performed by Art and Nature, wherein  
shall be nothing Magicall: and first by the figuration of  
Art, there may be made instruments of Navigation  
without men to row in them, as great shippes to breake  
the Sea, onely with one man to steere them, and they  
shall saile far more swiftly than if they were full of  
men: also Chariots that shall move with an unspeake-  
able force, without any living Creature to sit in them.  
Likewise an instrument may be made to flie withall, if  
one sit in the midst of the Instrument and doe turne an  
Engine, by which the wings being Artificially composed,  
may beat aite after the manner of a flying bird. By an  
Instrument of three fingers high, and three fingers broad,  
a man may rid himselfe and others from all Imprison-  
ment: yea such an Instrument may easily be made,  
whereby a man may violently draw unto him a thousand  
men, will they, nill they, or any other thing. By art also  
an Instrument may be made, whereby men may  
walke in the bottome of the Sea or Rivers without bodi-  
ly danger: this Alexander the Great used (as the Echnick  
philosopher reporteth) to the end he might behold the se-  
cret of the Seas. But Physicall figurations are farre  
more strange: for by that may be framed Perspectes and  
Looking glasses, that one thing shall appeare to be many;  
as one man shall appeare to be a whole Army, and one  
Sonne or Moone shall seem diverse. Also perspectes may  
be so framed that things a farre off shall seem most nigh  
unto us; with one of these did Julius Caesar from the  
Sea coasts in France, marke and observe the situation of  
the Castles in England. Bodies, may also be so framed  
that the greatest things shall appeare to be the least, the  
highest:



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highest lowest, the most secret to the most manifest, and in such like sort the contrary. Thus did Socrates perceiue, that the Dragon which did destroy the City and Countrey adjoining with his noysome breath, and contagious influence, did lurke in the dens between the Mountaines: and thus may all things that are done in Cities or Armies be seen by the enemies.

Again, in such wise many bodies be found, that benemous and infectious influence may be brought together be will: In this did Aristotle instruct Alexander, through which instruction the poison of a Basiliske, being left upon the wall of a City, the poison was conveyed into the City, to the destruction thereof. Also perspectives may be made to deceive the sight, as to make a man beleefe that he seeth great store of riches, when that there is not any. But it appertaines to a higher power of Figuration, that beames should be brought and assembled by diuers reflexions and reflexions in any distance that wee will, to burn any thing that is opposite unto it, as it is witnessed by those Perspectives or Glasses that burn before and behind: but the greatest and chiefest of all Figurations and things figured, is to describe the Heauenly bodies, according to their length and breadth in a corporall figure, wherein they may corporally move with a daily motion. These things are worth a Kingdom to a wise man: These may suffice, my Royall Lords to shew what Art can doe: and these with many things more as strange, I am able by Art to performe. When take no thought for winning this Town, for by my Art you shall (ere many dayes bee past) haue your desire.

The King all this while heard him with admiration: but hearing him now, that he would undertake to winne the towne, he burst out into these speeches: Most learned Bacon, doe but what thou hast said, and I will giue thee what thou most desirest, either wealth or honour, choose which thou wilt, and I will be as ready to performe



## of Fryer Bacon

performe, as I have been to promise.

Your Majesty to be in all that I seek (said the Fryer) let me have that and I have honour enough; for wealth, I have content, the wise should seek no more: But to the purpose. Let your Majesty raise up a Mount so high (or rather higher) then the wall, and then shall you see some probability of that which I have promised.

This Mount in two days was raised: then Fryer Bacon went with the King to the top of it, and did with a perspective shew to him the Town, as plainly as if he had been in it: At this the King did wonder, but Fryer Bacon told him, that he should wonder more ere next day noon; against which time he desired him to have his whole Army in readinesse, for to scale the wall upon a signall given by him from the Mount. This the King promised to doe, and returned to his Tent full of joy, that he should gain this strong Town. In the morning Fryer Bacon went up to the Mount and set his Glasses, and other Instruments up: In the mean time the King ordered his Army, and stood in a readinesse for to give the assault: When the signall was given which was the waving of a Flagge, ere nine of the clock Fryer Bacon had burnt the Gate house in the Town, and other houses, first by the Mathematicall Glasses, which made the whole town in an uprore, for none did know how it came: When that they were quenching the same, Fryer Bacon did burne his Flagge: upon which signall given, the King set upon the Town, and took it with little or no resistance. Thus by the Art of this learned man the King got this strong Town, which he could not do with all his men without Fryer Bacons help.



# The famous History

How Fryer Bacon, Overcame the Germane Conjuror Vandermaest, and made a Spirit of his own carry him into Germany.

**T**he King of England after he had taken in the Town, shewing great mercy to the Inhabitants giving some of them their lives freely and others he set at liberty for their Gold: the Town he kept as his own, and swore the chief Cittizens to be his true Subjects. Presently after, the King of France, sent an Ambassadour to the King of England, for to intreat a peace between them. This Ambassadour being come to the King, he feasted him (as it is the manner of Princes to do) as with the best spoils as he had then, welcomed him. The Ambassadour seeing the King of England so free in his Love, desired likewise to give him some taste of his good liking, and to that intent sent for one of his followers (being a Germane, and named Vandermaest) a famous Conjuror, who being come he told the King that since his Grace had been so bountifull in his love to him, he would shew him (by a set hand of his) such wonderfull things as his Grace had never seen the like before. The King demanded of him of what nature those things were that he would do; the Ambassadour answered that they were things done by the Art of Magicke, the King hearing of this, sent straight for Fryer Bacon, who presently came, and brought Fryer Bungey with him.

When the Banquet was done, Vandermaest did aske the King, if he desired to see the Spirit of any man deceased: and if he did, he would raise him in such manner and fashion as he was in when that he lived. The King told him, that above all men he desired to see Pompey the Great, who would abide noequall. Vandermaest by his Art raised him, armed in such manner as he was



## of Fryer Bacon.

was when he was slaine at the battle of Pharsalia: At this they were all highly contented. Fryer Bacon presently raised the ghost of Julius Caesar, who would abide no Superiour, and had slain this Pompey at the battle of Pharsalia: At the sight of him they were all amazed, but the King, who sent for Bacon; and Vandermaest said there was some man of Art in that presence, whom he desired to see. Fryer Bacon then shewed himselfe, saying; It was I Vandermaest that raised Caesar, partly to give content to the royall presence, but chiefly for to conquer the Pompey, as he did once before at that great Battle of Pharsalia, which he now again shall doe. Then presently began a fight between Caesar and Pompey, which continued a good space, to the content of all, except Vandermaest. At last Pompey was overcome and slain by Caesar: then banished they both away.

My Lord Ambassadour (said the King) me thinks that my Englishman hath put down your Germaine: hath he no better cunning than this? Yes answered Vandermaest, Your Grace shall see me put down your Englishman, ere that you goe from hence: and therefore Fryer prepare thy self with the best of Art to withstand me. Thus, said Fryer Bacon, it is a little thing will serue to resist thee in this kind. I have here one that is my inferiour (shewing him Fryer Bungey) try thy Art with him: and if thou do put him to the worst then wilt I deal with thee and not till then.

Fryer Bungey then began to shew his Art: and after some turning and looking on his Booke, he brought up among them the Hesperian Tree, which did bear golden Apples: These Apples were kept by a wading Dragon that lay under the Tree: He having done this, his Vandermaest finds out one that durst gather the fruit. Then Vandermaest did raise up the ghost of Hercules in his habit that he wore when that he was living, and with his Club on his Shoulder; Here is one, said Vandermaest, that shall



## The famous History

shall gather fruite from this Tree: this is Hercules, that in his life time gathered of this fruit and made the Dragon couch: and now again shall he gather in spite of all opposition. As Hercules was going to pluck the fruite Fryer Bacon held up his wand, at which Hercules stayed and seemed fearfull. Vandermaast bid him for to gather of the fruit, or else he would torment him. Hercules was more fearfull, and said, I cannot, nor dare not: for great Bacon stands, whose charmes are far more powerfull then thine, I must obey him, Vandermaast. Hereat Vandermaast curst Hercules, and threatened him: But Fryer Bacon laughed and bid him not to chafe himself ere that his journey was ended: for seeing (saith he) that Hercules will doe nothing at your command, I will have him to do you some service at mine, with that he bid Hercules carry him home into Germany. The Devil obeyed him and took Vandermaast on his back and went away with him in all their fights. When Fryer cryed the Ambassadors, I will not lose Vandermaast for half my land, Content your self the Lord, answered Fryer Bacon, I have buttent him home to see his wife, and ere long he may returne. The King of England thanked Fryer Bacon, and forced some gifts on him for his service that he had done for him: For Fryer Bacon did so little respect money, that he never would take any thing of the King.

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How Fryer Bacon through his wisdom saved the endangered lives of three Brethren.

The Peace being concluded between the King of Eng and and the King of France: the King of England came again into his Country of England, where he was received very joyfully of all his subjects: But in his absence had happened a discord between three Brethren, the like hath not been often heard. Thus it was:



## Of Fryer Bacon.

A rich Gentleman of England dyed, and left behinde him three Sons. Now for some reason (which was best knowne to himselfe) he appointed none of them by name to be his heire, but spake to them after this manner: You are all my sons, and I love you all as a Father should doe, all alike, not one better then the other: and because I would alwayes doe right so neer as I can, I leave all my Lands and goods to him that loves me best. These were the last words that he spake, concerning any worldly affaires.

After he was dead and buried, there arose a great controverisie betwixt them who should inherit their Fathers goods and Lands, every one pleading for himself, how that he loved his Father best. All the cunning Lawyers of the Kingdom, could say nothing to the purpose, concerning this case, so that they were enforced to beg of the King a grant for a combat, for they would not share the Lands and goods amongst them, but every one desired all or else nothing. The King seeing no other way to end this controverisie, granted a combat, the two elder being to fight first, and the Conquerour to fight with the youngest, and the survivor of them was to have the Land.

The day being come that was set for those Combatants, they all came in Armed for the fight, Fryer Bacon being there present, and seeing such three lustie young men like to perish, and that by their owne flesh and blood, grieved very much, and went to the King, desiring his Majesty that he would stay the fight, and he would find a meanes without any blood-shed to end the matter: the King was very glad hereof, and caused the Combatants to be brought befoze him, to whom he said: Gentleman, to save the blood of you all, I have found a way, and yet the controverisie shall be ended, that is now amongst you. Are you contented to stand to his Judgement that I shall appoint? They all answered,



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that they were. When they were bid to returne three dayes after. In that time Fryer Bacon had caused the body of their deceased Father to be taken out of the ground, and brought to the Court: the body he did cause to be bound to a Stake, naked from the middle upwards, and likewise prepared three Bowes and Shafts for the three brethren: all these kept he secretly.

The third day being come, came these three brethren, to whom Fryer Bacon in the presence of the King, gave the three Bowes and Shafts, saying, Be not offended at what I have done, there is no other way but this to judge your cause. See here is the body of your dead Father, shoot at him, for he that commeth nearest to his heart, shall have all the Lands and goods.

The two elder prepared themselves, and shot at him, and stucke their Arrows in his brest. Then bid they the youngest to shoot: but he refused it, saying, I will rather lose all than wound that body that I so loved living: Had you ever had but halfe that love (in you) to him that I have, you would rather have had your owne bodies mangled, than to suffer his lifelesse corpes thus to be used: nay, you do not only suffer it, but you are the Actors of this act of shame: and speaking this, he wept.

Fryer Bacon seeing this, did give the Judgement on his side, for he loved his Father best, and therefore had all his Lands and goods: The other two Brothers went away with shame for what they had done. This deed of Fryer Bacon was highly commended of all men: for he did not only give true Judgement, but also saved much blood that would have been shed, had they been suffered to have fought.



## of Fryer Bacon.

How Fryer Bacon sarv'd the Theeves that robbed him, and  
of the sport that his man Miles had with them.

**I**t was reported about the Countrey, how that the King  
had given Fryer Bacon great store of Treasure. The re-  
port of this wealth made three theebis plot to rob Fryer  
Bacon's house, which they put in practice one evening in  
this fashion. They knockt at the dooze, and were let in by  
Miles: No sooner were they in, but they took hold of him,  
and led him into the house, and finding Fryer Bacon there,  
they told him that they came for some money, which they must  
and would have ere they departed from thence. He told  
them, that he was but ill stor'd with money at that time, and  
therefore desired them to forbear him till some other time:  
they answered him again, that they knew that he had e-  
nough, and therefore it was but folly to delay them, but  
straight let them have it by fair meanes, or else they would  
use that extremity to him that he would be loath to suffer.  
He seeing them so resolute, told them that they should have  
all that he had, and gave them one hundred pounds a man.  
Wherewith they seemed content, and would have gone their  
wayes. May said Fryer Bacon, I pray Gentlemen at my  
request tarry a little, and heare some of mine apudiche:  
you are hired reasonable well already, I hope in curtillie  
you will not deny me so small a request: that will we not  
(said they all.)

Miles thought now to have some sport with them, which  
he had, and therefore played lustily upon his Lute and  
Pipe; so soon as they heard him play (against their wills)  
they fell a dancing and that after such a laborious man-  
ner, that they quickly wearied themselves (for they had  
all that while the bags of money in their hands.) Yet  
had



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had Fryer Bacon not rebenge enough of them, but bid his  
man Miles lead them some larger measure as he thought  
fitting, which Miles did. Miles straight led them out of the  
house into the fields, they followed him dancing after a  
wilde Antick manner: Then he led them ober a broad Dike  
full of water, and they followed him still, but not so good a  
way as he went (for he went ober the Bridge, but they by  
reason of their dancing could not keep the Bridge, but fel  
off, and dancing through the water: ) then led he them  
through a way where a Horse might very well have been  
up to the belly: they followed him, and were so dirty, as  
though they had wallowed in the myre like Swine: Some-  
time he gave them rest onely to laugh at them. Then  
were they so sleepe, when he did not play, that they fell to  
the ground. When on the suddain would he play again,  
and make them start up and follow him. Thus he kept them  
the better part of the night. At last he in pity left playing,  
and let them rest. They being a sleep on the bare ground,  
he took their money from them, and gave them this song for  
farewell: To the tune of,

Oh do me no harme good man.

You roaring Boyes, and sturdy Thieves,  
you Pimpes, and Apple-squires:  
Lament the case of these poor knaves:  
and warme them by your fires.

They snorting lie like hogs in stie,  
but hardly are so warm:  
If all that cheat such hap should meet,  
no true man 'twere no harm.

They money had, which made them glad,  
their joy did not indure:  
Were all Thieves serv'd as these have been,  
I think there would be fewer.



## of Fryer Bacon,

When that they awake, their hearts will ake,  
to think upon their losse:  
And thought the Gallowes they escape,  
they goe by weeping crosse.

Your Truls expect your coming home  
with full and heavy purse,  
When that they see 'tis nothing so,  
oh how they'l raile and curse!

For he that loves to keep a whore,  
must have a giving hand,  
Which makes a many knaves be choakt,  
for bidding true men stand.

They were scarce any thing the better for this Song,  
for they slept all the while. So Miles left them at their rest,  
but they had small cause to sleep so soundly as they did, for  
they were more wet than ere were Scold with ducking.  
Miles gave his Master his money again, and told the story  
of their merry pilgrimage: he laughed at it, and wished all  
men had the like power to serve all such knaves in the like  
kinde. He ther was waking in the morning and missing  
their money, and seeing themselves in that plight, thought  
that they had been served by some divine power, for rob-  
bing a Church-man, and therefore they chose one to the o-  
ther, never to meddle with any Church-man again.

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How *Vandermast*, for the disgrace that he had received by  
Fryer Bacon, sent a souldier to kill him; and how Fryer  
Bacon escaped killing, and turned the Souldier from an  
Atheist to be a good Christian.

**F**ryer Bacon sitting one day in his study, looked o-  
ver all the dangers that were to happen to him that  
suddenly



## of Fryer Bacon.

Moneth, there found hee, that in the second week of the moneth betwene Sun rising and setting, there was a great danger to fall on him, which would without great care of prevention, take away his life. This danger which he did not see, was caused by the German Coniurer Vandermaest, for he vowed a revenge for the disgrace that he had receiv'd. To excuse the same, he hired a Walloon Soldier, and gave him an hundred crownes to doe the same, first before hand, and first when he had killed him.

Fryer Bacon to save himself from this danger that was like to happen to him, would alwayes when that he read, hold a ball of Masse in his hand, and under that ball would he set a Basin of Masse, that if he did chance to sleep in his reading the fall of the Ball out of his hand into the Basin, might wake him. Being one day in his study in this manner and sleep, the Walloon Souldier was got in to him, and had drawne his sword to kill him: but as he was ready to strike down fell the Ball out of Fryer Bacons hand, and waked him.

He seeing the Souldier stand there with a sword drawn, asked him what he was? and wherefore he came there in that manner? The Souldier, boldly answered him thus, I am a Walloon, and a Souldier, and more than this, a villain: I am come hither, because I was sent; I was sent, because I was hired; I was hired, because I durst do it; the thing I should do, is not done; the thing to be done, is to kill thee: thus have you heard what I am, and why I came.

Fryer Bacon wondred at this mans resolution: then asked he him who set him on worke to be a murderer. He boldly told him Vandermaest the German Coniurer. Fryer Bacon then asked him, what Religion he was of? He answered, Of that which many do professe, the chief principles of which was these. To go to an Ale-house, and to a Church with one devotion: To abstain from eill for want of Action, and to doe good against their wills: It is a good profession for a Devil (said Fryer Bacon.) Dost thou believe Hell? I beleve no such thing, answered the Souldier.



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dier. Then will I shew the contrary, said the Fryer: and presently raised the Ghost of Julian the Apostate who came by with his body burning, and so full of wounds, that it almost did affright the Souldier out of his wits. Then Bacon did command this Spirit to speak, and to shew what he was, and wherefore he was thus tormented: Then spake he to them in this manner; I sometimes was a Roman Emperour. Some count greatnesse an happinesse: I had an happinesse beyond my Empire, had I kept that, I had been an happy man: would I had lost my Empire when I lost that. I was a Christian, that was my happinesse, but my selfe love and pride, made me to fall from it: for which I now am punished with never ceasing torments, which I must still endure: the like which I enjoy is now prepared for unbelieving wretches like my selfe; so banished be away.

All this while the Souldier stood quaking, and sweat as he had felt the torments himselfe, and falling down on his knees desired Fryer Bacon to instruct him in a better course of life, than he had yet gone in. Fryer Bacon told him, that he should not want his help in any thing, which he performed, instructing him better: Then gave he him money and sent him to the wars of the holy land, where he was slain.

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### How Fryer Bacon deceived an old Usurer.

**N**ot farre from Fryer Bacon, dwelt an old Man that had great store of Money which he let out to Use, and would never doe any good with it to the poore, thought Fryer Bacon had often put him in minde of it, and wished him to doe some good whilest he lived. Fryer Bacon seeing this, by his Art made an Iron pot, which seemed full of gold; this being done he went to this rich



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A usurer and told him that he had some gold which he had gathered in his time that he had liued, but it being much in quantity, he feared that if it were known, it would be taken from him, because it was unfitting a man of his Coate should haue so much: Now he desired him that he would let him haue some hundred pounds, which was not the first part of his gold, and he should keep it for him. The usurer was glad to heare of it so, and told him that he should haue it, and that he should keep the gold as close as he himself would: Fryer Bacon was glad to hear of this and presently seide the pot: at the sight of which the usurer laugh and thought to himself, how all that gold was his owne, so he had a determination to gull the Fryer, but he gulled himself. See here is the gold (said Fryer Bacon) now let me haue of you one hundred pounds and keep you this gold till I pay it back again; Very willing (said the usurer) and told him one hundred pounds out, which Fryer Bacon took and delivered him the pot and he went his way. This money did Fryer Bacon giue to diuers poore schollers, and other people, and bid them pray for old Good-gatherers soules health (so was the usurer called) which these poore people did and would giue him thanks and prayers when they met him, which he did wonder at: for he neuer deserued the prayers of any man. At last this old Good-gatherer went to look on his pot of gold, but in stead of gold he found nothing but earth, at which sight he would haue died, had not his other gold hindered him, which he was to leaue behind him; so gathering up his spirits, he went to Fryer Bacon and told him he was abused and cheated, for which he would haue the Law of him, nlesse he made him restitution. Fryer Bacon told him that he had not cheated him, but been his faithfull steward to the poore, which he could not chuse but know, either by their prayers or their thanks; and as for the Law he feared it not, but bid him doe his worst. The old man seeing Fryer Bacons resolution went his way, and said, that hereafter he would be his own steward.



## of Fryer Bacon,

How Miles, Fryer Bacons man, did Conjure for meat, and got meat for himselfe and his Host.

Miles chanced one day upon some business, to go some six miles from home, and being leath to part with some company that he had, he was belaid and could get but false way home that night: to save his purse he went to ones house that was his Masters acquaintance: but when he came: the good man of the house was not at home and the woman would not let him have lodging. Miles seeing such cold entertainment, wished that he had not troubled her, but being now there, he was loath to go any further, and therefore with words he perswaded her for to give him lodging that night. She told him that she would willingly do it, if her husband were at home, but he being now out of Town, it would be to her discredit to lodge any man. You need not mistrust me (said Miles) for I have no thought to attempt your chastity: lock me in any place where there is a bed and I will not trouble you till to morrow that I rise. She thinking her husband would be angry if she should deny any of his friends so small a request, consented that he should lie there, if that he would be locked up: Miles was contented and presently went to bed, and she locked him into the Chamber where he lay.

Long had not he been a bed, but he heard the doore open, with that he rose, and peeped through a chinke of the partition, and saw an old man come in: This man set down his basket that he had on his arme, and gave the Woman of the house three or foure sweet kisses, which made Miles his mouth runne with water to see it: Then did he undoe his basket, and pulled out of it a fat Capon ready roasted and bread; with a bottle of good old Sack, this gave he unto her, saying: Sweet heart, hearing thy husband was out of Town, I thought good to visite thee, I am not come empty handed, but have brought



## The famous History

Something to be merry withall: lay the cloath sweet Honey, and let us first to Banquet, and then to bed. She kindly thanked him, and presently did as he had her: they were not scarce set at the Table, but her husband returning backe knockt at the dooze. The woman hearing this was amazed, and knew not what to doe with her old Lober: but looking on her appron-strings, she straight found (as women use to doe) a trick to put herselfe free from this feare: for she put her lobber under the bed, the Capon and Bread she put under a Tub, the Bottle of wine she put behinde the Chest, and then she did open the dooz, and with a dissembling kisse welcomed her husband home, asking him the reason why that he returned so quickly. He told her that he had forgot the money that he should have carried with him, but on the morrow betimes he would be gone. Miles saw and heard all this, and having a desire to tast of the Capon and the Wine, called to the good man. He asked his wife who that was? She told him, an acquaintance of his, that entreated lodging there that night. He bid her open the dooz, which she did, and let Miles out. He seeing Miles there, bid him welcome, and had his wife set them some meat on the Table: she told him that there was not any ready, but prayed him to keep his stomach till to morrow, and then she would provide them a good breakfast. Since it is so Miles (said the good man) we must rest content, and sleep out our hunger, Nay stay, said Miles, if that you can eat, I can finde you good meates: I am a Scholler and have some Art. I would fain see it (said the Good man) You shall, quoth Miles, and that presently: with that Miles pulled forth a Book out of his bosom, and began his Conjuratiō in this fashion.

From the fearfull Lake below,  
From whence Spirits come and goe,  
Straightway come one and attend  
Fryer Bacons man and friend,

Comes



## of Fryer Bacon;

Comes there none yet, quoth Miles? Then I must use  
some other Charme.

Now the Owle is flown abroad,  
For I hear the croaking Toad;  
And the Bat that shunnes the day,  
Through the darke doth make her way.  
Now the ghost of men do rise,  
And with fearfull hideous cryes,  
Seek revengment (from the good)  
On their heads that spilt that blood:  
Come some Spirit quick I say,  
Night's the Devills Holy-day:  
Where ere you be in dens or lake,  
In the Ivie, Ewe, or Brake:  
Quickly come and me attend,  
That am *Bacons* man and friend.  
But I will have you take no shape  
Of a Bear, a Horse, or Ape:  
Nor will I have you terrible,  
And th refore come invisible.

Now he is come (quoth Miles) and therefore tell me  
what meat you will have mine host? any thing, Miles  
(said the good man) what thou wilt. Why then (said  
Miles) what say you to a Capon? I love it above all  
meat (said the good man.) Why then a Capon you  
shall have, and that a good one too. Bemo my Spirit that  
I have raised to doe me service, I charge thee, seek and  
search about the earth, and bring me hither straight the  
best of Capons ready roasted. Then stood he still a lit-  
tle, as though hee had attended the Comming of his  
Spirit, and on the suddain said: It is well done Be-  
mo, he hath brought me (mine host) a fat Capon from  
the King of Tripolis owne Table, and bread with it. I  
but where is it, Miles? (said the host) I see neither Spi-  
rit nor Capon. Look under the Tub (quoth Miles) and  
there



## The famous History

there you shall find it. He presently did and brought (to his wives grief) the Capon and Bread out. Stay (quoth Miles) we doe yet want some drink that is comfortable and good: I thinke (mine Host) a Bottle of Malegoc Sack were not amisse. I will have it; Bemo, hast thee to Malligo, and fetch me from the Gobernour, a Bottle of his best Sacks.

The poor woman thought that he would have betrayed her and her lover, and therefore wished that he had been hanged when that he came first into her house. He having stood a little while, as before said: well done Bemo, looke behind the great Chest (mine Host) He did so, and brought out the Bottle of Sack; Now (quoth he) Miles sit down and welcome, to thine owne weer: You may see wife (quoth he) what a man of Art can doe, get a fat Capon and a bottle of good Wine in a quarter of an hour, and for nothing which is best of all: Come (good wife) sit down and be merry: for all this is paid for, I thank Miles.

Shee ate and could not eat a bit for anger, but wished that ebery bit they did eat might choke them: Her old Lober too that lay under the bed all this while, was ready to befitte himselfe for fear, for he still looked when that Miles would discover him.

When they had eaten and drunke well, the good man desired Miles that he would let him see the Spirit that fettered them this good cheer: Miles seemed unwilling, telling him that it was against the Lawes of Art, to let an illiterate man see a Spirit, but yet for once he would let him see it: and told him withall; he must open the Dooze and soundly beat the Spirit, or else he should be troubled hereafter with it. And because he should not fear it, he would put it into the shape of some one of his neighbours.

The Good-man told him, that he need not to doubt his valour, he would beat him soundly, and to that purpose he took a good Cudgell in his hand, and did stand



## of Fryer Bacon;

Stand ready for him. Miles then went to the bed side, under which the old man lay, and began to Conjure him with these words.

Bemo quickly come appear,  
Like an old man that dwells near;  
Quickly rise, and in his shape,  
From this house make thy escape;  
Quickly rise, or else I swear,  
He put thee in a worser fear.

The old man feeling no remedy, but that he must needs come forth, put a good face on it, and rose from under the Bed: Behold my Spirit (quoth Miles) that brought me all that you have had. Now be as good as your word and swaddle him soundly. I protest (said the Goodman) your Devil is as like Goodman Stumpe the Looth-drawer, as a Pome-water is like an Apple. Is it possible that your Spirit can take other mens shapes? He teach this to keep his owne shape: With that, he did beat the old man soundly, so that Miles was faine to take him off, and put the old man out of Dooze; so after some laughing, to bed they all went: but the woman could not sleep for grief, that her old Lober had had such hard usage for her sake.

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How Fryer Bacon did help a young man to his Sweet-heart, which Fryer Bugney would have married to another; and of the mirth that was at the wedding.

A Dorsetshire Gentleman had long time loved a faire Mayde, called Millisant; this love of his was as kindly received of her, as it was freely given of him,



## The famous History

him, so that there wanted nothing to the finishing of their loves, but the consent of her Father, who would not grant that she should be his wife (though formerly he had been a means to further the match) by reason there was a Knight that was a Sutor to her, and did desire that he might have her to his wife: But this Knight could never get from her the least token of good will: So surely was her love fixed upon the Gentleman.

This Knight seeing himselfe thus despised, went to Fryer Bungey, and told him his mind, and did promise him a good peece of Money, if he could get her for him, either by Art or Counsell.

Bungey (being covetous) told him, that there was no better way in his mind, then to get her with her Father to goe take the ayre in a Coach; and if he could do so, he would by his Art so direct the Horses, that they should come to an old Chappell, where he would attend, and there they might secretly be married.

The Knight rewarded him for his counsel, and told him, that if it tooke effect, hee would be more bountifull unto him: And presently went to her Father, and told him of this. He liked well of it, and forced the poore Mayd to ride with them. So soon as they were in the Coach, the horses runne presently to the Chappell, where they found Fryer Bungey attending for them: At the sight of the Church and the Priest, the poore Mayde knew that shee was betrayed, so that for grief she fell in a swoond, to see which, her Father and the Knight were very much grieved, and used their skill for her recovery.

In this time, her best Beloved the Gentleman, did come to her Fathers to visit her, but finding her not there, and bearing that she was gone with her Father and the Knight, he mistrusted some foul play, and in all hast went to Fryer Bacon, and desired of him some help to recover his Love again whom he feared was utterly lost.



## of Fryer Bacon;

Fryer Bacon (knowing him for a vertuous Gentleman) pittied him: and to geve his griefs some release, shewed him a Glasse, wherein any one might see any thing done (within fifty miles space) that they desired: So soon as he looked in the Glasse, hee saw his Lobe Millisant with her Father, and the Knight, ready to be marryed by Fryer Bungey: At the sight of this hee cryed out that he was undone, for now should he lose his life in losing of his Lobe. Fryer Bacon bids him take comfort for he would prebent the Marriage: So taking this Gentleman in his Armes, he let himsele downe in the enchanted Chaire, and suddenly they were carreed throug the ayre to the Chappell. Just as they came in, Fryer Bungey was joining their hands to marry them: But Fryer Bacon spoyled his speeth, for he stricke him dumbe, so that he could not speake a word.

Then raised he such a great Mist in the Chappell, so that neyther the Father could see his Daughter, nor the Daughter her Father, nor the Knight either of them. Then took he Millisant by the hand, and led her to the Man she most desired: They both wept for joy, that they so happily once more had met, and kindly thanked Fryer Bacon.

It greatly pleased Fryer Bacon to see the passion of these two Lovers, and seeing them both contented, hee marryed them at the Chappell doore whilst her Father, the Knight, and Fryer Bungey went groping within, and could not find the way out. Now when he had marryed them, he bid them get lodgins at the next Village, and he would send his Man with money: (for the Gentleman was not stozed, and he had a great way to his house) they did as he bad them.

That night he sent his Man Miles with money to them: but he kept her Father, the Knight, and Fryer Bungey till the next day at noon in the Chappell, ere he released them.



## The famous History

The Gentleman and his new married wife made that night a great Supper for joy of their Marriage, and bid to it much of the Village: They wanted nothing but Musicke, for which they made great moan. This want Fryer Bacon (though he was absent) supplied: for after Supper there came such a Maske, that the like was never seen in that Village: For first, there was heard most sweet still Musicke, then wild musicke, then came three Apes, and three Monkeys, each of them carrying a Torch. After them followed six Apes and Monkeys more, all dressed in Anticke Coats: these last six fell a dancing in such an odde manner, that they moved all the beholders to much laughter: so after divers Antick changes, they did reverence to the Bridegroome and Bride, and so departed in order as they came in.

They all did marvel from whence these should come: But the Bridegroom knew that it was Fryer Bacon's Art that gave them this grace to their wedding.

When all this was done; to Bed they went, and enjoyed their wishes. The next day he went home to his own house with his Bride; and for the cost he had bestowed on them most part of the Colonel's folke brought them on their way.

Miles made one amongst them too; he for his Masters sake was so pleyed with Cups, that he in three dayes was scarce sober: For his welcome, at his departure he gave them this Song: To the tune of,

I have been a Fidler, &c.

And did you not hear of a mirth that befell,  
The morrow after a wedding day,  
At carrying a Bride at home to dwell,  
and way to Twiver, away, away.



## of Fryer Bacon,

The Quintin was set, and the Garlands were made,  
'tis pity old customes should ever decay :  
And woe be to him that was horst on a Jade,  
for he carryed no credit away, away.

We met a Consort of Fiddle dedees,  
we set them a cockhorse, and made them to play,  
The winning of Bullen, and Upsy-frees,  
and away to Twiver, away, away.

There was ne'er a Lad in all the parish,  
that would go to Plow that day :  
But on his four horse his Wench he carries,  
and away to Twiver, away, away.

The Butler was quicke, and the Ale he did tap,  
the Maydens did make the Chamber full gay :  
The Serving men gave me a fudling Cap,  
and I did carry it away, away.

The Smith of the Towne his liquor so took,  
that he was perswaded the ground look'd blue,  
And I dare boldly swear on a Book,  
such Smithes as he there be but a few.

A Posset was made, and the women did sip,  
and simpering said they could eate no more :  
Full many a Maid was laid on the lip,  
He say no more, but so give ore.

They kindly thanked Miles for his Song, and so sent  
him home with a store of his tale. His Master asked  
him, where hee had been so long ; he told him, at  
the wedding. I know it (said Fryer Bacon) that  
thou hast been there, and I know also (thou heast) that  
thou hast been every day dancin. That is the worst that  
you



## The famous History

you can say by me, Master, for still poore men must be  
drunk, if that they take a Cup more than ordinary, but it  
is not so with the rich. Why, how is it with the rich then?  
I will tell you (said Miles) in few words.

Lawyers they are sick,  
And Fryers are ill at ease,  
But poor men they are drunk  
And all is one disease.

Well Sirrah (said Fryer Bacon) let me not heare  
that you are infected any more with this disease, lest I  
gibe you some salve to your sturat meat. Thus did  
Fryer Bacon help these two Lovers, who in short time  
got the love of the old man, and lived in great joy:  
Fryer Bungey his tongue was againe let loose, and all  
were friends.

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How Vandermaest and Fryer Bungey met, and how they  
strived who should excell one another in their Con-  
jurations, and of their deaths.

Vandermaest thinking that Fryer Bacon had beene  
dead, came into England, and in Kent met with  
Fryer Bungey; He owing him no good will for Fryer  
Bacons sake, took his Horse out of the Stable, and in  
stead of it left a Spirit like unto it. Fryer Bungey in  
the morning rose, and mounting this Spirit (which hee  
thought he had been his Horse) rode on his journey: But  
he riding thorow a Water, was left in the midst of it  
by this Spirit, and being thus wet, hee returned to his  
home.

At the same time Vandermaest met him, and as-  
ked



## of Fryer Bacon.

ked him, if that were swimming time of the yeare? Bungey told him, If that he had been so well hoised as hee was, when Fryer Bacon sent him into Germany he might have escaped that washing. At this Vandermaest bit his lip, and said no more, but went in. Bungey thought that he would be even with him, which was in this manner. Vandermaest loved a wench well, which was in the house, and sought many times to win her with gold, love or promises. Bungey knowing this, did shape a Spirit like the wench, which he sent to Vandermaest.

Vandermaest appointed the Spirit (thinking it had been the wench) to come to his Chamber that night, and was very joyfull that he should enjoy her now at the last: But this joy turned into sorrow, and his wanton bores into a bad nights lodging: For Fryer Bungey had by his Art spread such a sheet on his Bed, that no sooner was he laid with the Spirit on it, but it was carryed through the ayre, and let fall into a deep Pond, where Vandermaest had been drowned, if he had not had the Art of swimming: He got quickly out of the Pond, and shaked himselfe like a rough Water Spaniell: But being out, hee was as much vexed as before, for hee could not tell the way home, but was glad to keep himselfe in heat with walking.

Next day when he came to his Inn, Fryer Bungey asked him how hee did like his wench: Hee said, So well, that he wished him such another. Bungey told him that his Order did forbid him the use of any, and therefore he might keep them for his friends: Thus did they continually vex each other, both in words, and ill actions. Vandermaest desiring to doe Fryer Bungey a mischief, did challenge him the field) not to fight at Sword and Dagger, single Rapier, or case of Poyards, but at water weapons far, it was that Diabolicall Art of Magike) there to them which of them was most cunning,



## The famous History

ring or had most power over the Debill: Bungey accepted of his challenge, and both provided themselves of things belonging to the Art, and to the field they went.

There they both spread their Circles some hundred foote from one another: and after some other Ceremonies did Vandermast begin: He by his Charms did raise up a fiery Dragon, which did runne about Fryer Bungies Circle, and did scorch him with his heate, so that he was almost ready to melt. Fryer Bungey tormented Vandermast, in another Element: so he raised up the Sea monster that Perseus killed when he did redeeme the faire Andromeda. This Sea monster did run about Vandermast, and such floods of water he did send out of his wide mouth, that Vandermast was almost drowned. Then did Fryer Bungey raise a Spirit up like Saint George, who fought with the Dragon, and killed it: Vandermast (following his example) raised up Perseus, who fought also with the Sea monster, and killed it: So were they both released from their danger.

They being not contented with this tryall of their skill, went further in there Conjurations and raised up two Spirits, each of them one. Bungey charged his Spirit so to assist him with his greatest power he had, that by it he might be able to overcome Vandermast. The Debill told him he would, if that he from his left Arme would give him but three drops of blood: But if that he did deny him that, then should Vandermast have power over him to doe what he would: the like told Vandermasts Debill to him: So this demand of the spirits, they both agreed, thinking for to overcome each other: but the Debill overthrew them both.

They having given the Debill this blood, as is before spoken of, they both fell againe to their Conjurations: first, Bungey did raise Achilles with his Greekes, who marched about Vandermast, and threatened him. Then Vandermast



Vandermaest raised Hector with his Trojans, who defended him from Achilles and the Greeks. Then began there a great battle between the Greeks and Trojans, which continued a good space. At last Hector was slaine, and the Trojans fled. Then did follow a great tempest, with thundering and lightening, so that the two Conjurers wished that they had been away. But wishes were in vaine, for now the time was come that the Devil would bee paid for the knowledge that hee had lent them, he would tarry no longer, but then tooke them in the height of their wickednesse, and bereft them of their lives.

When the Tempest was ended, (which did greatly affright the Townes thereby) the tobaccher-men found the bodies of these two men (Vandermaest and Bungey) breathlesse, and strangely burnt with fire. The one had Christian buriall because of his Wyfes sake: the other, because he was a stranger. Thus was the end of these two famous Conjurers.

How Miles would conjure for Money, and how he broke his legge for fear.

Miles one day finding his Masters Study open, stole out of it one of his conjuring Books; with this book would Miles needs Conjure for some Money: for he saw that his Master had Money enough, and he desired the like, which did make him bold to trouble one of his Masters Debils. In a private place he thought it best to doe it: Therefore he went up to the top of the house, and there began to read: Long had he not read, but a Devil came to him in an ugly shape and asked him what he would have: Miles being affrighted, could not speake, but stood quaking there like an Aspin-leaf: the Devil, seeing him so, (to increase his feare) raised a tempest,



## THE FAMOUS FRIBORY

and hurled fire about, which made Miles leap from off the Leads, and with the fall broke his legge.

Fryer Bacon hearing this noise, ran forth, and found his man Miles on the ground, and the Debill hurling fire on the house top. First laid he the Debill again, then went he to his man, and asked him how he got this broken leg? He told him that his Debill did it: for he had frightened him, and made him leap off from the house top. What didst thou there? (said his Master.) I went to conjure, Sir, (said Miles) for money, but I have gotten nothing but a broken leg; and I now must beg for money to cure that, if you be not the more pitiful to me.

I have oftentimes given you warning not to meddle with my Books (said his Master) and yet you will still be doing: Take heed, you had best, how you deal with the Debill again, for he that had power to break your leg, will break your neck, if you again do meddle with him: for this I do forgive you, for your leg breaking hath paid for your sauciness, and though I gave you not a broken head, I will give you a plaister, and so sent him to the Chirurgens.

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How two young Gentlemen that came to Fryer Bacon to know how their Fathers did, killed one another, and how Fryer Bacon for grief did break his rare Glass, wherein he could see any thing that was done within fifty miles about him.

It is spoken of before now, that Fryer Bacon had a Glass, which was of that excellent nature, that any man might behold any thing that he desired to see, within the compass of fifty miles round about him: with this glass he had pleased divers kinds of people; for Fathers did oftentimes desire to see (thereby) how their Children did, and Children how their Parents



## Of Fryer Bacon,

rents did, one friend bode another did, and one Enemy (sometimes) to his Enemies did; so that from farre they would come to see this wonderfull Glasse.

It happened one day that there came to him two young Gentlemen, (that were Countryment, and Neighbours Children) for to know of him by his Glasse, how their Fathers did: he being no niggard of his cunning, let them see his glasse, wherein they straight beheld their wishes, which they (through their owne follies) bought at their liues losses as you shall hear.

The fathers of these two Gentlemen, (in their sons absence) were become great foes; this hatred between them was grown to that height, that wheresoeber they meet, they had not only words but blows.

Just at that time, as it should seem, that these sons were looking to see how they were in health, they were met and had drawn, and were together by the eares.

Their Sonnes seeing this, (and having been alwayes great friends) knew not what to say to one another, but beheld each other with angry looks: At last one of their Fathers as they might perceiue in the Glasse, had a fall, and the other taking advantage, stood over him ready to strike him. The sonne of him that was down, could then contain himself no longer, but told the other young man, that his Father had receiued wrong. He answered again, that it was fair. At last there grew such foul words between them, and there bloods were so heated, that they presently stab'd one another with their daggers, and so fell down dead.

Fryer Bacon seeing them fall ranne to them, but it was too late; for they were breathlesse ere he came. This made him to grieve exceedingly; he judging that they had receiued the cause of their deaths by this his Glasse, took the Glasse in his hand, and uttered words to this effect.

Wretched Bacon, wretched in thy knowledge, in thy understanding wretched, for thy Art hath been the ruine



## The famous History

of these two Gentlemen. Had I been buffed in those holy things, the which mine Order tyen me to. I had not had that time that made this wicked Glasse: Which I well may call it, that is the canker of so vile an Art; would it were sensible, then should it feel my wrath, but being as it is, He ruine it for curing of them: and with that he broke his rare and wonderfull Glasse, whose like the whole world had not. In this grief of his, there came news to him of the Deaths of Vandermast and Fryer Bungey. This did increase his griefe, and made him so sorrowfull, that in three dayes he would not eat any thing, but kept his Chamber.

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How Fryer Bacon burnt his books of Magick, and gave himselfe to the study of Divinity only, and how he turned Anchorite.

**I**n the time that Fryer Bacon kept his Chamber, he fell into divers meditations: Sometimes into the banity of Arts and Sciences: then would he condemn himselfe for studying of those things that were so contrary to his Order, and soules health, and would say, that Magick made a man a Devil; sometimes would he meditate on Idleness, then would he cry out upon himselfe for neglecting the study of it, and for studying Magick sometimes would he meditate on the shortnesse of mans life, then would he condemn himselfe for spending a time so short, so ill as he had done his: So would he goe from one thing to another, and in all condemn his former studies.

And that the world should know how truly he did repent his wicked life: he caused a great fire to be made, and sending for many of his friends, Scholars, and others, he spake to them after this manner: My good friends and fellow Students, it is not unknown unto you, how that through my Art I have attained to that cre-



dit, that few men living euer had: Of the wonders that I haue done all England can speak, both King and Commons: I haue unlocked the secrets of Art of Nature, and let the world see those things, that haue lain hid euer since the death of Hermes, that rare and profound Philosopher: My studies haue found the secrets of the Stars, the Books that I haue made of them doe serue for Presidents to our greatest Doctors, so excellent hath my Iudgment been therein.

I likewise haue found out the secrets of Trees, Plants, and Stones, with their seuerall uses; yet all this knowledge of mine I esteeme so lightly, that I wish that I were ignorant, and know nothing; for the knowledge of these things (as I haue truly found) serueth not to better a man in goodnesse, but only to make him proud, and think too well of himself. What hath all my knowledge of Natures secrets gained me? Only this, the losse of a better knowledge, the losse of diuine Studies, which makes the immortall part of man (his soule) blessed.

I haue found, that my knowledge hath been a heauy burthen, and hath kept downe my good thoughts; but I will remove the cause, which are these Books; which I do purpose here before you all to burn. They all intreated him to spare the books, because in them there were those things that after ages might receiue great benefit by. He would not hearken unto them, but threw them all into the fire, and in that flame burnt the greatest learning in the world.

Then did he dispose of all his goods, some part he gave to poore Scholars, and some he gave to other poore folkes nothing left he for himselfe. Then caused he to be made in the Church wall a cell; where he locked himself in, and there remained to his death. His time he spent in Prayer, Meditation, and such diuine exercises, and did seeke by all means to perswade men from the studie of Magicks.



## The famous History, &c.

Thus lived he some two years space in that Cell, never coming forth; his meat and drink he received by at a window, and at that window he did discourse with those that came to him. His grave he digged with his stone hammers, and was laid there when he dyed. Thus was the Life and Death of this famous Fryer, who lived most part of his life a Magician, and dyed a true penitent Sinner, and an Anchorite.

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5 AP 58

FINIS.

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